

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, March 24, 2006*

## “STREET SMART” CAMPAIGN AIMS TO REDUCE PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES AND INJURIES IN DC AREA

This MPDC this week joined officials from DC, Maryland and Virginia in kicking off the 2006 edition of “Street Smart,” a regional pedestrian safety campaign targeting walkers, motorists and bicyclists. Under the sponsorship of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, “Street Smart” combines enforcement and education/awareness in a coordinated campaign that is designed to reduce pedestrian deaths and injuries throughout the Washington metropolitan area. In DC alone, there were 16 pedestrian fatalities during 2005, an increase from 10 the previous year. And so far this year, six pedestrians have been killed in traffic crashes in DC. “The MPDC is very concerned – and, quite frankly, a bit frustrated – over the recent increase in pedestrian fatalities in DC,” Chief Ramsey said during the kickoff news conference. “We’re frustrated because the rise in pedestrian fatalities runs counter to the other trends we are seeing in traffic safety – a reduction in speeding and red-light running, and fewer fatalities on our roadways overall. But while we may be concerned and frustrated, we are also determined to make our streets safer for everyone – pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike,” he added. On the enforcement end, the MPDC (and other participating agencies) will be conducting various pedestrian safety operations at high-risk locations over the next several weeks. Complementing these enforcement waves is an education initiative that strategically places creative advertising messages on radio, Metrorail, Metrobus and outdoor transit venues. A strong focus of the campaign is reaching the Latino audience through Spanish-language brochures and advertising outreach. New research shows the responsibility for pedestrian incidents in the DC region appears shared, almost equally, between drivers and pedestrians, so the “Street Smart” campaign encourages both motorists and walkers to follow the law and pay attention to one another.

## MPDC LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL LAUNCHES SERIES OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Beginning this weekend, the MPDC’s Latino Advisory Council is sponsoring a series of quarterly public safety assemblies with Latino communities that will be held in different parts of the city. The purpose of the assemblies is to promote greater communication among the District’s Latino residents and the MPDC. The assemblies will be similar in format to the monthly meetings held in Police Service Areas throughout the city. They will be conducted in Spanish, with simultaneous translation into English for limited Spanish-speaking participants. The first Latino Community Public Safety Assembly will take place from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday, March 25, at the Carlos Rosario International Career Center, 1100 Harvard Street, NW. Ward 1 DC Councilmember Jim Graham and Third District Commander Larry McCoy are among the scheduled participants. Various police and government speakers will discuss crime trends affecting Latinos and efforts to address those problems. Speakers will also describe the Crime Victims Assistance Program and the manner in which Latinos can access this service. Latino residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns they might have about police operations during the entire program.

- ① Read the full news release at:  
<http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=353000>
- ① Get more information about “Street Smart,” including downloadable copies of program materials, by going to:  
<http://www.mwccog.org/transportation/streetsmart>
- ① For useful tips and techniques on traffic safety in general, visit:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548131,mpdcNav\\_GID,1547.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp)
- ① For additional information on the Latino Community Public Safety Assemblies, contact the Latino Liaison Unit, at (202) 673-4445.
- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=355000>
- ① Learn more about the organization and services of the MPDC’s Latino Liaison Unit at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,540963,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav\\_|31417|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,540963,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|31417|.asp)
- ① MPDC policy strictly prohibits officers from making inquiries into citizenship or residency status for the purpose of determining whether an individual has violated civil immigration laws or for the purpose of enforcing those laws. Read the full policy statement – in English and Spanish – at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,557455,mpdcNav\\_GID,1543.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,557455,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp)

## DC TO HOLD PANDEMIC FLU SUMMIT IN APRIL

The MPDC will join other local officials on April 28, 2006, for a pandemic influenza summit designed to identify needs specific to DC. The summit, to be held at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University in Northeast DC, will bring together first responders, business leaders, educators, health care providers, faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies, policymakers and others. The goal of the summit is to ensure that officials and community leaders will all be on the same page when dealing with a threat of this nature. The announcement of the summit came this past week during a meeting of DC and federal officials to map out the District's response to the possibility of pandemic flu. Mayor Williams and US Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt have signed a resolution committing the DC and federal governments to joint planning efforts. In the planning resolution, HHS committed to providing guidance and technical assistance to DC, along with financial assistance for the purpose of pandemic flu planning. The District agreed to conduct a Pandemic Preparedness Summit and ensure that its pandemic influenza response plan is an integral part of the overall local emergency response plan. Because of the various public safety issues that would be created by pandemic influenza, the MPDC will be an integral part of the planning process and summit announced this week.

## DC ATTORNEY GENERAL, DCRA JOIN IN CRACKDOWN ON NUISANCE PROPERTIES

In support of the District's community policing strategy, DC Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti and Patrick Canavan, Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), this past week announced the successful prosecution of the owners of two nuisance properties as a result of the partnership between the two DC government agencies. The Public Safety Division, Nuisance Property Unit of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and DCRA are working to ensure the safety of District residents by prosecuting owners of properties that are resulting in blight or criminal activity in DC neighborhoods. Through an agreement between the two agencies, two prosecutors were hired solely to address nuisance properties. The prosecution team began in the fall of 2005, and two of the cases brought by the new unit successfully resulted in recent guilty pleas. Curtis Russell Hughes, owner of 710 and 619 Kennedy Street, NW, was prosecuted on criminal charges of operating an illegal business, operating without certificates of occupancy and various housing code violations. The charges were brought after a DCRA investigation found Hughes was operating a trash hauling business on the first floor of 710 Kennedy Street, and was renting out the second floor as a rooming house. 619 Kennedy Street was being used exclusively as a rooming house. Hughes pleaded guilty to four counts of housing code violations; he must pay \$1,200 in fines and \$200 to the Crime Victims Fund. Harvey Lee Stewart was criminally charged with operating an illegal business and operating without a certificate of occupancy at 4300 Hunt Place, NE. Stewart failed to clear the property of junk vehicles, trash and debris, and admitted to operating a car dealership on the property. Stewart pleaded guilty to two counts of operating an illegal business and use without a certificate of occupancy; he must pay \$400 in fines and pay \$100 to the Crime Victims Fund.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Civilian Biologist Positions.** The MPDC is accepting applications for three positions, including one manager, to work as DNA forensic specialists on MPDC cases at the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia. The staff positions are responsible for planning, coordinating and directing forensic science activities to include expert examinations, reporting of results, training and testimony in court. The manager position serves as a master forensic examiner and is responsible for managing, planning, coordinating and directing forensic science activities. The positions are open until April 7. Details – including duties, requirements and salary ranges – are at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>

① More information about the Pandemic Influenza Summit can be found at:  
[http://app.doh.dc.gov/news\\_room\\_dsf/release.asp?id=308&mon=200603](http://app.doh.dc.gov/news_room_dsf/release.asp?id=308&mon=200603)

① Comprehensive information on avian and pandemic flu can be found at:  
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

① Another resource for targeting nuisance properties is Operation Crackdown, a program of the Young Lawyers Section of the DC Bar Association that uses the legal system to go after owners of nuisance buildings who fail to take corrective action. Details at:  
<http://www.badc.org/html/ylocd.htm>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 3/24/06

- ◆ 2006: 38
- ◆ 2005: 36
- ◆ % Change: +5.6%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 52.6% (20 closures)

#### Adult Arrests week end. 3/18/06

- ◆ Total: 899
- ◆ Weapons: 26
- ◆ Robbery: 8
- ◆ Auto Theft: 24
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 39

#### Juvenile Activity week end. 3/18/06

- ◆ Arrests: 55
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 39
- ◆ Truants: 94

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 3/22/06

- ◆ March: 153
- ◆ 2006 Total: 599

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 3/24/06

- ◆ 2006: 10
- ◆ 2005: 12
- ◆ % Change: -16.7%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**